

been omitted have on occasion been included for botanically poorly known areas.

As many botanists have regional, rather than world-wide interests the world has been divided into 7 major regions (Australia and New Zealand is No. 7) and the code number (s) appear in the left-hand margin for each relevant entry.

All new names, at whatever rank, have been included, with the exception of cultivars. In questions of validity of publication the requirements of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* have been strictly adhered to, and where interpretation of this has been in doubt the suggestions made in *Regnum Vegetabile* 60: 42–57 (1969) have generally been adopted.

New names listed as validly published appear in **bold face**. Names proposed as new but not validly published appear in roman type. Names not proposed as new (i.e. species names under which new infra-specific taxa are named) are given in *italic type*.

The *Kew Record* will overlap largely the coverage of the *Index Kewensis*. It is intended however that the latter will continue publication as a five-yearly cumulation and will increase its scope to cover all names of spermatophytes including those at infra-generic and infra-specific levels.

At first sight the provision of a list of abbreviations used for periodicals seemed unnecessary. However, investigation showed that it included a number of periodicals which were not in the *World List of Scientific Periodicals 1900–1960* 4th ed. (1964). Apart from that the main difference seen was in spelling abbreviations of adjectives used in the title with a capital letter instead of the small letter used in the World List.

—MARY A. TODD

Poisonous plants of Australia. Selwyn L. Everist.
Published by Angus and Robertson, Sydney
and London. 1974—xvi, 684 pp., 64 col. pl., 64
b. & w. photographs, 42 fig. Recommended
price: \$45.00.

Selwyn Everist is director of the Queensland Herbarium and of the botany branch of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries. He is also a part-time lecturer on poisonous plants and toxicology to veterinary students at the University of Queensland, and for many years has had a close association with

farmers, graziers, medical practitioners and veterinarians. His great knowledge of botany and wide experience with plants in relation to animal husbandry have placed him in a unique position as a suitable author for *Poisonous plants of Australia*. The book reflects his deep knowledge of the subject and will quickly become a standard reference work for all who are closely connected with botany, human health, and the management and care of domestic stock.

Poisonous plants of Australia is divided into two sections and has three useful appendices. Section one contains general information, with short chapters on the history of plant poisoning, toxic substances in plants, factors affecting the toxicity, how evidence of plant toxicity is obtained, how to investigate grazing areas for possible poison plants when stock poisoning is suspected, and how to prevent and treat poisoning. Precautions necessary to prevent or minimize plant poisoning in stock are summarized in seven points.

Section two, comprising the bulk of the book, contains the descriptions of individual poisonous plant species—there are separate chapters for seed-bearing plants; ferns and fern allies; fungi, lichens and algae. Native, naturalized, sown pasture plants, crop and garden plants are included—over 800 species in all. The botanical name (with authority) and common name or names (whenever possible) are given, together with any nomenclatural notes or synonyms necessary to allow comparison of this work with other texts. Under each species there are notes on description; distribution and habitat; conditions of poisoning; poisonous principle; toxicity, symptoms and lesions; prevention and treatment. Where a plant has different effects on different animal species the variation is indicated. Toxicity to humans, and symptoms shown by humans are also separately described.

The three appendices all take the form of easily scanned charts, with the plant species arranged alphabetically in each. Appendix 1 indicates the presence or absence (as far as is known) of each poisonous plant species for each Australian State. Appendix 2 charts each species against its recorded symptoms, and appendix 3 charts each species against the toxic substances it is known to possess.

Illustrations, including good colour photographs, cover one-fifth to one-quarter of the species included in the book. Copious references are given throughout the text and relevant bibliographies appear at the end of each section or plant family. The text is written simply but clearly throughout, and with an avoidance of technical terms whenever possible. Its usefulness to the farmer and grazier is therefore enhanced, without detracting from its value to professional botanists, medicos, and veterinarians. A comprehensive index to botanical and common names and toxic substances completes the book.

A number of species suspected of poisoning, or with a potential for poisoning (e.g. *Chilocarpus australis*; *Vinca minor*) have been included but some (e.g. *Lavatera plebeia*; *Petalostigma quadriloculare*) have been omitted. Readers may find themselves wondering if the omissions are intentional and warranted or due to an oversight (the latter cause of omission is a problem which every compiler has to struggle with, but no one completely overcomes). No doubt some of the plants which have previously been recorded as possibly poisonous have now been shown to be only very doubtfully so or else completely above suspicion. A list of these would have been an aid to any reader noticing their absence from *Poisonous plants of Australia*.

In summary—a well-produced, clearly written, information-packed book which fills a long-time gap in the list of authoritative reference works on varying aspects of Australian botany.

—HELEN I. ASTON

Author and Classified Catalogues of the Royal Botanic Gardens Library, Kew, England. (Author 5 vols., Classified 4 vols.) Published by G. K. Hall & Co., Boston, Mass., U.S.A., 1974. Recommended price (outside U.S.A.): Author catalogue \$462.00; classified catalogue US\$374.00.

The Library of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is one of the largest botanical libraries in the world. Scientific research in the Gardens is carried out in various fields, particularly in taxonomy and phytogeography in the Herbarium and in cytology, anatomy, physiology and biochemistry in the Jodrell laboratory.

These volumes give a reproduction of its Author and Classified subject catalogues and thus give a valuable (and for taxonomic work close to complete) guide to the works published by individual authors and to the literature available on many botanical subjects. The library is particularly rich in early botanical works and in works on plant taxonomy and distribution. It also covers economic botany, botanical travel and exploration as well as other disciplines of botany.

Owing to the high cost of the work the publishers have distributed only the title page, preface and first 32 pages of the Author Index for review. This much is enough to show that the work will be a mine of information for workers in smaller Herbaria with less extensive libraries. Much time will be saved by workers who discover the names of existing works on the